



A C T

Against Separation and Disobedience to ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY.

Edinburgh, *the tenth day of July*, one thousand six hundred and sixty three



FOrasmuch as the Kings Majesty, considering the prejudices which did ensue to the Church and the Protestant Religion, to the Prerogative of the Crown, to the Authority of Parliament, to the Liberties of the Subject, and to the publick Laws and Peace of the Kingdom, by the invasions made upon Episcopal Government during the late troubles; And finding that Government to be the Church-government most agreeable to the Word of God, most convenient and effectual for preservation of Truth, Order and Unity, and most suteable to Monarchy and to the Peace and Quiet of the State; Hath therefore, with advice and consent of his Estates of Parliament, by several Acts past in the second Session of this Parliament, restored the Church to it's ancient and right Government by Archbishops and Bishops, and hath redintegrated the estate of Bishops to the exercise of their Episcopal Function, and to all the Privileges, Dignities, Jurisdictions and Possessions due and formerly belonging thereunto. And in further order to the settlement of the Church, and bringing the Ministers to a due acknowledgement of, and compliance with, the Government thereof thus established by Law, his Majesty, with advice aforesaid, hath also Statuted and Ordained, That all these Ministers who entered to the Cure of any Paroch, without Right or Presentations from the lawfull Patrons, in and since the year, one thousand six hundred and forty nine, and should not, betwixt and the twentieth of September last, obtain Presentations from their severall Patrons, and Collation from the Bishop of the Diocese where they lived, should have no right to the uplifting the rents of any Benefice or Stipend for the year, one thousand six hundred and sixty two, but that their Places, Benefices and Kirks should be, ipso jure, vacant: And, that whatever Ministers should, without a lawfull excuse to be admitted by their Ordinary, absent themselves from the diocesan Assembly, or who should not concur in all the Acts of the Church-discipline, as they should be thereunto required by the Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocess, should be for the first fault suspended from their Office and Benefice till the next diocesan Meeting; and if they amended not, should be deprived, and the Church and Benefice to be provided as in other cases of vacancies. And the Kings Majesty, having resolved to conserve and maintain the Church in the present State and Government thereof by Archbishops and Bishops, and others bearing office therein. and not to endure nor give way or connivance to any variation therein in the least, Doth therefore, with

advice and consent of his Estates convened in this third Session of his Parliament, Ratified and Approve the aforementioned Acts, and all other Acts and Laws made in the two former Sessions of Parliament, in order to the setting of Episcopal Dignity, Jurisdiction and Authority within this Kingdom, and Orders them to stand in full force as publick Laws of the Kingdom, and to be put to further execution in all points, conform to the tenor thereof. And in pursuance of his Majesties Royal resolution herein, his Majesty, with advice aforesaid, doth recommend to the Lords of his Majesties Privy Council, to take speedy and effectual course, that these Acts receive ready and due obedience from all his Majesties Subjects: And for that end, that they call before them all

Who, having entered in or since the year, one thousand six hundred and forty nine, and have not as yet obtained Presentations and Collations as aforesaid, yet dared to preach in contempt of the Law, and to punish them as seditious persons and contemners of the Royal Authority. As also, that they be careful, that such Ministers who keep not the diocesan Meetings, and concur not with the Bishops in the Acts of Church discipline, being for the same suspended or deprived as said is, be accordingly, after deprivation, removed from their Benefices, and if any of them shall offer to retain the possession of their Benefices, that they be punished as seditious persons and such as contemn the Authority of Church and State.

And as His Majesty doth expect, from all His good and dutifull Subjects, a due acknowledgement of, and hearty compliance with, His Majesties Government, Ecclesiastical and Civil, as it is now established by Law within this Kingdom, and that in order thereunto they will give their chearfull concurrence, countenance and assistance to such Ministers, as by publick Authority are or shall be admitted in their severall Parishes, and attend all the ordinary Meetings for divine worship in the same; So His Majesty doth Declare, That he will, and doth, account a withdrawing from, and not keeping and joyning in, these Meetings, to be seditious, and of dangerous example and consequence. And therefore, and for preventing of the same for the future, His Majesty, with advice and consent of His Estates in Parliament, doth hereby Statute, Ordain and Declare, That all and every such person or persons, who shall hereafter ordinarily and wilfully withdraw and absent themselves from the ordinary Meetings of divine worship in their own Paroch Church on the Lords-day, (whether upon account of Popery or other disaffection to the present Government of the Church) shall thereby incur the pains and penalties under-written, viz. Each Nobleman, Gentleman and Heretor, the loss of a fourth part of his years rent, in which they shall be accused and convicted; and every Woman, Tenant or Farmer, the loss of such a proportion of their free moveables (after the payment of their rents due to their Master and Land-lord) as His Majesties Council shall think fit, not exceeding a fourth part thereof; and every Burges to lose the liberty of Merchandizing, Trading and all other Priviledges within Burgh, and fourth part of their moveables. And His Majesty, with advice aforesaid, doth hereby authorize and require the Lords of His Majesties Privy Council, to be careful to see this Act put to due execution; and for that end, to call before them all such persons as after admonition of the Minister, in presence of two sufficient witnesses, and by them so attested, shall be given up to the Council as transgressors of this Act, in withdrawing from their Paroch Churches as aforesaid; and the same, after hearing of the parties being duly found, to decern and inflict the censures and penalties above-mentioned, and such other corporal punishment as they shall think fit, and direct all execution necessary for making the same effectual, and to do every other thing they shall find necessary, for procuring obedience to this Act and putting the same to punctual execution, conform to the tenor and intent thereof. And Ordains these presents to be printed, and published at the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh, and other places needfull, that none pretend ignorance thereof.

E D I N B U R G H,

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